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COUNTRY China
SUBJECT Political; Economic
HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
WHERE PUBLISHED Shang-hai
DATE PUBLISHED 7 December 1948
LANGUAGE Chinese

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SOURCE Chung-yang Jih-pao (Central Daily News), No 2311 requested.)

PRESSENT CONDITIONS IN K'AI-FENG

A former employee of the Honan Department of Reconstruction, who escaped from Communist-held K'ai-feng, gives the following report on the situation in that city.

Immediately after the Communists occupied K'ai-feng on 24 November, they established a K'ai-feng People's Democratic Municipal Government with Wu Chih-pu, former chief of Chih-pu Hsien in east Honan, as mayor. Other officials are: Hsu Kan-ch'ing, former principal of the provincial K'ai-feng Middle school, as Director of Education; Kuo Hai-chang, Chief of the K'ai-feng China Times Association and collaborator during K'ai-feng's previous defeat, as Deputy Director of Education, and Chi Wen-fu, Honan University professor and collaborator during the city's previous defeat, as Vice-president of Chung-yuan University.

Public functionaries and teachers have been told they will each receive 1,000 yuan in Communist notes and one bag of flour for services rendered. Also widely propagandized is the "Three Holdover Policy" under which the position, salary, and place of employment of individuals remain the same even after GUP occupation of an area. In spite of this, many are still scheming to escape from K'ai-feng. Coercion is used to send former KMT public officials back to their posts. Although professing to send families of KMT officials to the peaceful rear areas, the Reds are actually sending them to Han-tan in Honan. Terror reigns among the populace, and in recent days many have disappeared without a trace.

Economically, there is much chaos. The people are forbidden the use of fapi, gold yuan notes, and silver. They are compelled to use Communist currency. Trade companies and price controls have been instituted. Most of the shops are closed. Most merchants and peddlers have left K'ai-feng for the south.

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